

# JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER



## Magna Carta Guildhall Dinner, 13th October 2014

One of the big events for us this year will be the Magna Carta 800th black tie dinner at the Guildhall in the City of London on Monday, 13th October. We cannot yet say who the main speaker will be, but we expect that it will be a senior member of the Cabinet. Jeffrey Archer has agreed to be the auctioneer, *pro bono*. There will be up to 45 tables available, each seating 10 people, and the cost will be £400 a seat.

To reserve a seat or table, or if you would like more information, please email either Mark ([markgill@magnacarta800th.com](mailto:markgill@magnacarta800th.com)) or Bob ([sirrobertworchester@magnacarta800th.com](mailto:sirrobertworchester@magnacarta800th.com)).

It is expected that the ten Magna Carta Towns will be organising a table each for their key local supporters and to invite their local Member of Parliament as a guest.

The Guildhall venue – one of the most spectacular halls in London – is being provided by the City of London Corporation. Guests for the dinner will have a private showing of the City of London's 1297 Magna Carta in its new home. The new City's Heritage Gallery opens its doors to the public on 12th September and the City's 1297 Magna Carta will be the main feature of this new exhibition. See the back page of this newsletter for more details.

The Lincoln Magna Carta (1215) is now in the USA on its tour to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (until 1st September), the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts (6th September to 2nd November) and finally the Law Library of Congress (from 6th November to 19th January). One of the highlights of this tour will be the Law Library of Congress exhibition starting in November. We'll provide more details about the Law Library of Congress exhibition in our September newsletter. In the meantime in this newsletter, Lincoln is the featured Magna Carta Town – we will be covering all the key Magna Carta locations in our forthcoming newsletters as part of the Magna Carta Tourism Trail.



## Letter from the MC800th Chairman

Although it has been just a month since our last newsletter, it's been a very busy month! I am sure most of you will have seen the media reporting of the Prime Minister's call for all school children in Britain to be taught about Magna Carta. This created a great deal of publicity about Magna Carta and our anniversary plans up to and during the "one year to go" weekend in June.

On Monday 16th June, the Prime Minister invited us to a special reception at Number 10 and he gave an impressive speech on why he is personally so committed to commemorating Magna Carta and its importance. There's more on this and some pictures from the reception on page 5.

The following day, on 17th June, we held our third Stakeholder Networking Day at Royal Holloway University London. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those at Royal Holloway, particularly Emm Johnstone, for organising the event and hosting us on the day. At the meeting, we heard the latest updates from UK Parliament, British Library and the National Trust / Surrey County Council. The day also saw the launch of "The Great Charter Project": the production of a high quality textile art piece which will stand as a permanent legacy to one of the most important moments in English History. You can find more details here:  
<http://www.thegreatcharterproject.co.uk>

The Stakeholder Day saw the announcement of the successful bids from Round 1 of the UK Government's Grant of £1m to the Magna Carta Trust. Details of each of the projects are covered in the following page. Applications are also now open for bids under Round 2 and Round 3 – please read below for more details.

Please do make use of our website. It continues to expand with new content, particularly on materials for schools. Please do get in touch with your ideas and suggestions, both for the newsletter and our website [www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com)

With best wishes for the summer holidays.

**Sir Robert Worcester**

Deputy Chairman, Magna Carta Trust  
Chairman, Magna Carta 800th  
Anniversary Commemoration Committee

**PS - I was interviewed by the International Bar Association in June.  
If you'd like to see the video, please use this link: <https://vimeo.com/99541378>**

## The Magna Carta Project



**The Magna Carta Project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and delivered by a team of academics, is translating both the 1215 and 1225 editions of The Magna Carta from the original Latin into modern English.**

Expert commentary will be written to guide a range of audiences through the material, in order to make it accessible and useful to researchers, school students and the general public. The material produced during the course of the project will be made available on the dedicated website (<http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk>). The project is due for completion in time for the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta in June of 2015.

Previously unknown original charters of King John are being discovered during the course of the project. Photographs of the original documents — and copies where originals are not available — are being procured. We will make the charters — in the form of both photographs and transcriptions — available on this site over the course of the project.



## UK Government Grant: Round 1

In his 2014 Budget Speech, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt. Hon George Osborne MP, provided for a grant of £1m to the Magna Carta Trust for use by the Magna Carta 800th Commemoration Committee.

The first grants awarded by the Commemoration Committee were announced on 17th June. In total, these Round 1 grants provide £186,965 to ten organisations. It is expected that this funding will help to support more than £600,000 worth of activities planned by the successful bidders. The Permanent Secretary at Her Majesty's Treasury, Sir Nicholas Macpherson, is now a member of the MC800th Committee, its Advisory Board and the Grants Allocation Committee.

The ten successful bids are to the following projects:

### **Canterbury City Council (£20,000)**

Faversham Magna Carta Rediscovered: to fund the Faversham centric element of the Kent-wide Touring Exhibition to commemorate Magna Carta 800 – 'Magna Carta Rediscovered'.

### **Lincoln City Council (£20,000)**

Lincoln Voices: Magna Carta Artists in Residence: to fund artists to explore with Lincoln's communities the contemporary issues that relate most strongly for them around the principles set out in Magna Carta 800 years ago.

### **Runnymede Borough Council (£15,000)**

Spreading the Word: a competition for school pupils in Runnymede's twin towns in France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and USA to present their ideas for the best way to 'spread the word' about the significance of Magna Carta and how its principles have influenced their nation's constitutional development.

### **Salisbury Cathedral (£19,965)**

Digital Media and Education: Magna Carta 2015 and beyond: media students at Bournemouth University will produce a suite of new digital media projects (film clips and a free App) to educate and inform the public about Magna Carta and its enduring significance.

### **St Edmundsbury Borough Council (£20,000)**

Bury St Edmunds Light & Sound Event: to present an up to date version of the traditional pageants to tell the Magna Carta story of the town.

### **American Bar Association (£20,000)**

Icon of Liberty under Law: a multimedia website focusing on public representations of Magna Carta throughout the world.

### **Baronial Order of Magna Charta (£16,000)**

US Magna Carta Law School Scholarship Program and Triennial Magna Carta Symposium: an endowment to fund a Magna Carta scholarship and to fund the first triennial Magna Carta symposium.

### **English-Speaking Union (£18,000)**

My Magna Carta: an international creative essay competition for 11-18 year olds, to include ESU member countries and Commonwealth nations to create their own Magna Carta for the 21st century.

### **Pilgrim Society (£20,000)**

1215 – Foundation of Liberty: commissioning a Cantata to be performed at Runnymede on 15 June 2015 and available for others to use, composed by Nicholas O'Neill, Choirmaster and Composer in Residence to the Parliament Choir.

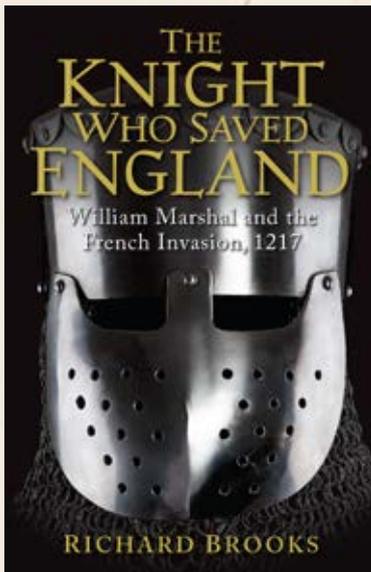
### **The Royal Commonwealth Society (£18,000)**

Westminster Hall Mock Trial: to support the costs of hosting citizens of Commonwealth nations to take part in the Mock Trial in Westminster Hall, House of Commons on 31st July 2015, with the 1215 Barons and Bishops in the dock for treason against King John (the evening preceding the UK Supreme Court's Magna Carta exhibition).

Further details about the projects being supported by the UK Government's Grant is on our website:

[www.magnacarta800th.com](http://www.magnacarta800th.com)

## The Knight Who Saved England



In 1217 England was facing her darkest hour, with foreign troops pillaging the country and defeat close at hand.

But, at the battle of Lincoln, the seventy-year-old William Marshal led his men to a victory that would secure the future of his nation. Earl of Pembroke, right-hand man to three kings and regent for a fourth, Marshal was one of the most celebrated men in Europe, yet is virtually unknown today, his impact and influence largely forgotten.

In this vivid account, Richard Brooks blends colourful contemporary source material

with new insights to uncover the tale of this unheralded icon. He traces the rise of Marshal from penniless younger son to renowned knight, national hero and defender of the Magna Carta. What emerges is a fascinating story of a man negotiating the brutal realities of medieval warfare and the conflicting demands of chivalric ideals, and who against the odds defeated the joint French and rebel forces in arguably the most important battle in medieval English history – overshadowing even Agincourt.

The book can be purchased at

[www.ospreypublishing.com/store/The-Knight-Who-Saved-England\\_9781849085502](http://www.ospreypublishing.com/store/The-Knight-Who-Saved-England_9781849085502)

## UK Government Grant: Rounds 2 and 3

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for organisations to bid for funding for Rounds 2 and 3 of the UK Government's Grant to the Magna Carta 800th Committee.

In Round 2, a maximum of £200,000 will be allocated with a limit of £20,000 per organisation and in Round 3, a maximum of £100,000 will be allocated with a limit of £20,000 per organisation.

Organisations may submit different bids to both Round 2 and Round 3. The deadline for submission is 30th August 2014 and decisions will be made by the end of September. For more information, please visit: <http://magnacarta800th.com/magna-carta-today/rounds-2-3-grants/>

## Update from Parliament

Sir Peter Luff MP recently spoke about Magna Carta in the House of Commons chamber during a Debate on the Queen's Speech. Sir Peter commented that: "I want to set my remarks in the context of 2015, which is not just an election year but an important year for Parliament. It would have been good if the Gracious Speech had made at least passing mention of the fact that in 2015 we will celebrate two important anniversaries: 750 years since the de Montfort Parliament of 1265, and 800 years since the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215. I know that you, Madam Deputy Speaker, have worked very hard with Sir Robert Worcester on the Magna Carta 800th Committee. Magna

Carta embodies the principles that have underpinned the emergence of parliamentary democracy and the legal system in the UK and across the world: limiting arbitrary power, curbing the right to levy taxation without consent, holding the Executive to account and affirming the rule of law. De Montfort's Parliament 50 years later flowed almost inevitably from just those principles."

You can see more of the speech, by clicking [here](#) or by searching for the House of Commons Hansard Report for 9th June 2014.



## One Year To Go: Number 10 Reception

Around 40 members of the Magna Carta 800th Commemoration Committee and other invited guests, including Parliament's Speakers' Committee, Magna Carta local government leaders and a group of school children from The Magna Carta School, were invited to a special reception at Number 10 Downing Street on 16th June.

The reception, hosted by the Prime Minister, was an opportunity to share thoughts about many of the plans and activities being organised to commemorate 800 years of Magna Carta and to promote the importance of rights, rule of law and democracy today.

The Prime Minister spoke to the audience for about 20 minutes on how vital he sees Magna Carta both to the development of this country and also internationally. He re-emphasised the need for British school children to be taught about Magna Carta's history and meaning, and also the crucial role that the principles underpinning Magna Carta – namely the rule of law and fight against corruption – are as important in today's global society as they were in England in 1215.



# The Rt Hon. The Lord Howe of Aberavon on why Britain should go metric



We celebrate the 800th anniversary of Britain's first charter of human rights, the Magna Carta, which included the proclamation that there should be "one measure of wine throughout our whole realm...and one measure of corn...and one width of cloth". Before then and ever since, every civilized society has recognized the need for one set (and only one set) of standard measures.

But after all those 800 years, British weights and measures are in a mess. We still do not have that single set of

standard measures for all purposes. We have litres for petrol and fizzy drinks, pints for beer. There are metres for athletics, but miles per gallon for cars. We use the metric system for work and school and yet, all too often, feet and inches and pounds and ounces are still in general use.

Many people describe their weights in stones and pounds whereas doctors and nurses in the NHS will have measured and recorded those same weights in kilograms. Petrol and diesel are sold in litres but, since road distances and speed limits are based on miles, most people have difficulty working out the fuel efficiency of their vehicle.

This muddle does matter. It can increase costs, confuse shoppers, lead to misunderstandings, cause accidents,

but especially it wastes our children's education which can put them at a disadvantage in later life.

So how did Britain get into this mess? Because we've been dithering for almost 150 years! As long ago as 1862, a House of Commons Select Committee unanimously recommended the adoption of the metric system. A century later, in 1965 the decision was taken to go metric over the next ten years.

In 1979, alas, the Government of the day (of which I was a member) foolishly decided to go slow on the whole process. So we're still stuck half way and the rest of the world has moved on. Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, India, Jamaica have all completed the change.

Plainly we can't stay where we are, with two confused, competing systems and it would be madness to go backwards. The only solution is to complete the changeover to metric - and as swiftly and cleanly as possible. It is long past time for us to summon up the will to get ourselves out of the present wasteful, untidy mess.

The 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta can provide the incentive to re-energise the adoption of the 'one measure' doctrine. King John and the barons would all have approved of that.

**To read more visit**  
<http://www.metric.org.uk/>



## 19th Commonwealth Law Conference: 12 – 16th April, 2015, SECC Glasgow

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association is holding its 19th biennial Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC2015) in the city of Glasgow.

The theme of the 2015 conference is Resources, Responsibilities, and the Rule of Law reflecting the issues surrounding our globalised world and the challenges or opportunities this presents for lawyers; with particular emphasis on commerce and the rule of law. The four conference streams will consider current trends in Corporate & Commercial law; the legal profession; the rule of law, and contemporary legal topics. Magna Carta as the root of many rights will of course be an integral part of our business and human rights programme as international speakers consider the question, "From Magna Carta to Commonwealth Charter: how far have we come?"

Magna Carta is the source for many of our constitutional and other guarantees and was signed by some Scottish Barons who had lands south of the border, but since then its values have been embedded in our common law, constitutions and human rights charters – most recently the Commonwealth Charter signed by Her Majesty The Queen on Commonwealth Day, 11 March 2013.

CLC2015 is a truly unique event which attracts delegates from our profession as well as senior members of the judiciary as well solicitors and attorneys general from the majority of the 53 Commonwealth member states.

A truly innovative programme of educational, entertaining, social and networking events is designed to ensure that all those who attend the conference will have an opportunity to conduct business, meet colleagues from different jurisdictions, exchange experiences, renew and build friendships that will continue long after the closing ceremony. In addition we will announce the winner of the 2nd Commonwealth Rule or Law award in conjunction with LexisNexis and a range of exhibitors will provide further information and services of interest to today's legal professionals.

I strongly exhort all our members, members of the profession and those with an interest in the rule of law to attend the 19th Commonwealth Law Conference and enjoy the warm hospitality of the city of Glasgow.

**See you in Glasgow 2015!**



Mark Stephens CBE  
President, Commonwealth Lawyers Association

[www.clc2015.co.uk](http://www.clc2015.co.uk)

## Magna Carta Trail: Lincoln

The city of Lincoln is celebrating Magna Carta's 800th anniversary in 2015 in a significant way.



Magna Carta was sealed in 1215 as an attempt to limit the King's power by the use of law. It is hailed by many as heralding the beginning of modern democracy.

Eight centuries on, Lincoln Castle will feature one of the only four remaining 1215 copies of Magna Carta in its new state-of-the-art visitor attraction. Opening in April 2015, the new visitor attraction includes the Magna Carta exhibition and vault, wall walks of this William the Conqueror building and tours of the prisons and chapel.

The Lincoln Magna Carta belongs to Lincoln Cathedral, one of Europe's finest examples of Gothic Architecture. Visiting the Cathedral is a wonderful experience. You can enjoy floor, tower and roof tours, visit the Wren library and marvel at the intricate carvings throughout the building.

A visit to the historic English city of Lincoln, just two hours from London, will be a visit to remember. Steeped in stunning architecture and a wealth of history to be explored, Lincoln also has many independent restaurants, inns and gift shops lining the city's cobbled streets.

There is a year round programme of events taking place in 2015. To book your stay and for more information visit <http://www.visitlincoln.com/magnacarta>

## Upcoming Events

### Battle of Bouvines visit



The Battlefields Trust will be taking a group to the Commemorations of the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Bouvines. The Battle of Bouvines, which took place near Lille on 27th July 1214, is one of the most significant events in British, if not world, history. The defeat of the Emperor Otto by the French King Philip was the act that condemned Otto's Uncle, King John of England, to dealing with his recalcitrant barons and the sealing of the Magna Carta. Visit here for more details: <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/event>



### Magna Carta Anthem: bicycle ride

An emissary on bicycle, Steve Brown, the vicar's husband of Odiham in Hampshire, will deliver by hand to the director of music a Magna Carta Anthem manuscript, which is being taken to each of the original Magna Carta towns. The ride will take place from 21st July to 9th August. Visit for more information: <http://magnacarta800th.com/get-involved/bicycle/>



### Magna Carta Lincoln and US Tour

Lincoln's copy of the 1215 Magna Carta is now on tour in the United States. It will be on display between 2nd July and 1st September at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; then from 6th September to 2nd November at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts; and finally from 6th November 2014 to 19th January 2015 at the Library of Congress, Washington DC

## Upcoming Events



### Guildhall Heritage Gallery Opening, 12th September 2014

The City of London Corporation's 1297 Magna Carta will spearhead the launch of the new City of London Heritage Gallery which opens to the public on Friday 12 September. Admission will be free to this permanent, purpose-built exhibition space which will showcase a rotating selection of rare, fascinating and sometimes surprising documents from the extensive archives of the City of London Corporation.



### Bury St Edmunds Stakeholder Event, 24th October 2014

Following on from the latest Stakeholder Event held on 17th June at Royal Holloway University of London, we are now preparing for the next Stakeholder Event now booked for 24th October. If you would like to attend, please email Mark Gill ([markgill@magnacarta800th.com](mailto:markgill@magnacarta800th.com)). The date has been chosen to coincide with Bury St Edmunds' Magna Carta commemorations. Visit the following page for more information: <http://magnacarta800th.com/events/st-edmundsbury/>



### US Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence coming to the British Library Exhibition

America's Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence will be on display in the UK for the first time next year on loan from the US National Archives and the New York Public Library. They will be displayed at the British Library as part of a landmark exhibition, Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy, which runs from 13 March – 1 September 2015. The exhibition is being curated by Claire Braey.

## 800th Commemorative Merchandise



We have a wide range of Magna Carta 800th commemorative products available for sale at our exclusive online shop [www.magnacarta800th.com/shop](http://www.magnacarta800th.com/shop)

You are able to purchase single items or large quantities and our production partners are happy to discuss trade supplies and co-branding opportunities. A proportion of the sale from every purchase goes to the Magna Carta Trust to support the 800th commemoration activities.

## Magna Carta: Foundation of Freedom

Third Millennium International are producing a richly illustrated volume edited by Nicholas Vincent, Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, with contributions from a range of leading experts on Magna Carta from across the world to reflect on the circumstances of its genesis and its enduring importance through subsequent centuries. As well as special editions for some of our core partners a general edition will soon be published.

For more information visit [www.magna-carta-book.com](http://www.magna-carta-book.com)

